

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-13 /100 W
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R 051430Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7035
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 1781

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, MOPS, CD, LY
SUBJ: MILITARY SITUATION IN CHAD

SUMMARY: MILITARY SITUATION STATIC, AND TENSION IN
NDJAMENA ABATES. GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION, DOWN-
PLAYING MILITARY ROLE AND INCREASING NORTHERN PARTICIPA-
TION IN PROSPECT. CHADIAN PRESS ATTACKS LIBYA.

1. MILITARY SITUATION IN CHAD REMAINS STATIC. FRENCH
AMBASSADOR IS CONFIDENT THAT ENOUGH FRENCH TROOPS ARE
IN PLACE OR ENROUTE TO REPULSE ANY SERIOUS NEW
REBEL PUSH. SOME MINOR REBEL GAINS IN AREA NORTH OF
ABECHE MIGHT STILL BE POSSIBLE, BUT HE FEELS THE CITY
OF ABECHE ITSELF WOULD HOLD. IN HIS OPINION, IF REBELS
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WISH TO CONTINUE HARRASSMENT OF MALLOUM GOVERNMENT,
GUERRILLA ACTIONS IN NDJAMENA OR ELSEWHERE IN THE
SOUTH WOULD BE THE MOST LOGICAL COURSE. HOWEVER,
NEITHER HE NOR I HAVE A CLEAR PICTURE OF REBEL OR
LIBYAN INTENTIONS AT THIS MOMENT. ON THE ONE HAND.
HAVING DEMONSTRATED THEIR STRENGTH AND THE
GOVERNMENT'S WEAKNESS, THEY MIGHT BE PREPARED TO

AGAIN ENGAGE IN NEGOTIATIONS;. ON THE OTHER, THEY SHOULD PUSH NOW FOR A MORE COMPLETE VICTORY. THE NEXT FEW WEEKS SHOULD CLEAR UP THE FOREGOING POINT.

2. THERE HAVE BEEN NO FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE SOUTH AND, ALTHOUGH THE SCHOOLS IN NDJAMENA REMAIN CLOSED, THE TENSION WITHIN THE CAPITAL HAS ABATED. AT A MEETING OF HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ON MAY 4, PRESIDENT MALLOUM UNDERLINED THE GRAVITY OF THE PRESENT SITUATION AND CALLED FOR GREATER EFFORT AND SUPPORT FROM THEM.

3. MEANWHILE, INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL APPARENTLY ALL REVOLVE AROUND A PROPOSED REORGANIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE PLACE THIS MONTH. WHILE NO FINAL DECISIONS HAVE AS YET BEEN MADE, THE OBJECT OF THE REORGANIZATION IS TO DOWNPLAY THE MILITARY ROLE IN GOVERNMENT AND INCLUDE MORE NORTHERNERS AND MOSLEMS. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST AMONG THE CANDIDATES UNDER CONSIDERATION ARE AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES GABA, REBEL LEADERS HISSEN HABRE AND ABBA SIDDICK, AND FORMER TOMBALBAYE MINISTERS LAMANA AND NDJIGANBAYE (LATTER TWO ARE STILL UNDER ARREST BUT APPARENTLY WILL BE FREED IN THE NEAR FUTURE).
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4. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE SINGING OF THE BENGHAZI ACCORD, LIBYA WAS ATTACKED BY NAME IN CHADIAN PRESS ON MAY 5. EDITORIAL POSES THE QUESTION WHAT ARE LIBYA'S TRUE INTENTIONS IN MEDIATING CHADIAN CRISIS. IT POINTS OUT THAT WHILE LIBYA HAS BEEN TALKING QUOTE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION UNQUOTE, IT HAS BEEN URGING AND SUPPORTING GOUKOUNI IN FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE CEASE FIRE. BRADFORD

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